

John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and  
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business  
(No Votes Before 5:00 p.m.)*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.Con.Res. 206—Permitting the Use of the Capitol Rotunda for the  
Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust  
S. 419—Birth Defects Prevention Act**

\* \* \*

## **Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the following two bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.Con.Res. 206** authorizes the use of the Capitol Rotunda from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on April 23, 1998, for a ceremony to observe the Holocaust. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors will host the one-hour ceremony to be held in the rotunda at noon on April 23 for speeches, readings, and musical presentations to honor the “Days of Remembrance.” The resolution was introduced by Mr. Yates and Mr. Gilman and was not considered by any committee.

**S. 419—Birth Defects Prevention Act** takes several steps to reduce the number of birth defects by coordinating data collected on birth defects and increasing prevention through public awareness. Specifically, the bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to: (1) collect and analyze data on the causes, incidence, and prevalence of birth defects; (2) operate regional centers to conduct applied epidemiological research to prevent birth defects; (3) provide information and educational resources to the public to prevent birth defects; (4) collect data from birth and death certificates, hospital records, and other appropriate sources, and sort the data by gender, racial, and ethnic groups; (5) encourage states to establish or improve programs for collecting and analyzing epidemiological data on birth defects and make that information available to the public; (6) establish,

through the Centers for Disease Control, a National Information Clearinghouse on Birth Defects to collect and disseminate to health professionals and the public information relating to birth defects and preventing such defects; (7) enter into contracts with, or provide grants to, public and nonprofit private entities to collect data and provide educational materials on birth defects; and (8) report biennially to the House Commerce Committee and the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee regarding birth defects. The bill authorizes \$30 million in FY 1998, \$40 million in FY 1999, and such sums as necessary for FY 2000 and FY 2001. Currently, the federal government provides approximately \$26 million through the Centers for Disease Control. The bill also applies all federal laws relating to the privacy of information to the data and information collected under the measure. The bill passed the Senate by voice vote on June 16, 1997, and is expected to be discharged by the Commerce Committee on March 10.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #5, March 6, 1998.

\* \* \*

---

Brian Fortune: *Editor*

S. Kevin Washington:  
*Senior Legislative Analyst*

Melissa Decker, Jimmy Papadimitriou,  
Kevin Smith: *Legislative Analysts*

House  
REPUBLICAN  
Conference

Legislative  
Digest

---

# House REPUBLICAN Conference Amendment Alert!

---

Please attach the text of the amendment (if available) and fax to the *Legislative Digest* at x5-7298

---

John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

Member Sponsoring Amendment: \_\_\_\_\_ Bill #: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Co-sponsors (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of the amendment: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

(Please include any additional or contextual information)

Reason for offering amendment (e.g., How will this change the bill or current law? Why should members support this change?): \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Legislative Digest reserves the right to edit descriptions for style, readability, and provisional accuracy.*

1013 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 226-2302

